Wizard rock

Wizard rock (sometimes shortened as **Wrock**) is a genre of rock music that developed between 2002 and 2004 in the United States. Wizard rock bands are characterized by their performances and humorous novelty songs about the *Harry Potter* universe.[1][2] Wizard rock initially started in Massachusetts with Harry and the Potters, though it has grown internationally.[3][4]

Wizard rock	
Stylistic origins	*Harry Potter* series · geek rock · emo
Cultural origins	Early 2000s (decade), United States
Typical instruments	Guitar, bass, drums, keyboard, vocals
Regional scenes	
Global, but centered in the US	
Other topics	
DIY ethic, Filk music	

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Characteristics

Leading bands in this genre include Harry and the Potters and Draco and the Malfoys.[5] Although most listeners of the genre are fans of *Harry Potter*, some bands have attracted listeners outside of the books' fanbase.[6] Wizard rock songs are often written from the point of view of a particular character in the books, usually the character who features in the band's name. In contrast to mainstream bands that have some songs incorporating literary references among a wider repertoire of music (notably Led Zeppelin to *The Lord of the Rings*),[7] wizard rock bands take their inspiration entirely from the *Harry Potter* universe.[8] When performing live, wizard rock bands often cosplay, or dress as, characters from the novels.[8] Some bands perform at fan conventions.[9]

History

The earliest Harry Potter-themed song is conventionally traced to 2000 when the Los Angeles-based pop-punk band Switchblade Kittens released an "Ode to Harry" from the perspective of Ginny Weasley.[11] Harry and the Potters originated the Harry Potter-themed band which became the genesis of a fandom-centered genre of music called wizard rock.[11] As Harry and the Potters increased in popularity, other wizard rock bands started to emerge. Brian Ross and Bradley Mehlenbacher originally conceived Draco and the Malfoys as a parody of Harry and the Potters, who were performing at a local house party.[12] In April 2005, Matt Maggiacomo invited Harry and the Potters to play at an all-Harry Potter show at his Rhode Island home. That night, Maggiacomo made his debut as *The Whomping Willows*, and his friends, Mehlenbacher and his brother, Brian Ross, played for the first time as *Draco and the Malfoys*.[3]

The Parselmouths, a wizard rock band consisting of Brittany Vahlberg and Kristina Horner, perform during Wrockstock in 2007, displaying the *Harry Potter* themed costumes common within the genre.[10]

There are also festivals focused on the genre such as Wrockstock, which was first held in 2007 in the United States.[10]

Notable groups

Notable wizard rock bands include: Draco and the Malfoys, Harry and the Potters, MC Kreacher, Ministry of Magic, and The Mudbloods.

See also

- *Harry Potter* fandom
- Filk
- Middle-earth music

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